REMARKS

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated September 11, 2003. Claims 1 through 8 are pending in the patent application. The specification and the claims have not been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the U.S. Patent Number 6,680,5212 to Nishikawa et al. ("*Nishikawa*"). Applicants respectfully submit, for the reasons set forth below, that the rejections have been overcome or are improper. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the patentability of claims 1-8.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Nishikawa*. Applicants respectfully submit that *Nishikawa* does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the elements of Claims 1-8 for the reasons provided below.

The claimed invention is directed to a print output control apparatus, a print output control method and a computer readable recording medium for outputting content of a file created by an application program to a printer 6 coupled to a computer 1 (see Figs. 1-3). The claimed invention includes a print driver 21 for converting data from a file into print data (PD) which is recognizable by the printer 6. The apparatus also includes a print data storage means 23 for storing the print data supplied from the print driver 21 and a window display means 22, executed by the printer driver, for acquiring the print data from the print data storage means 23 and displaying a preview window 30 on a display device coupled to the computer. The preview window 30 has a preview box 33 which displays the image of a print result to be printed from the printer 6 (Specification, page 10, line 16 to page 11, line 2). The apparatus also includes a print data processing means 24 which is executed by the window display means, and enables a user change one or more parameters of the printed image. *Nishikawa* does not disclose such elements.

Nishikawa is directed to a print control apparatus, method and memory medium which enables a user to print the print data of several pages or sheets of text such as a book in a reduced manner on one sheet outputted by a printer. This type of printing is typically called N-page printing or N-up printing and is commonly used in various applications such as test printing of a document for editing or layout confirmation such as the layout of pages in a book (Col. 1, lines 19-26). Specifically, *Nishikawa* describes a print control apparatus that automatically determines

the size and layout of individual pages that are going to be printed on a single page or the same page outputted by a printer. The print control apparatus can take different size pages and employ different enlargement/reduction ratios for the input pages to determine the enlargement/reduction ratio for each input page. In this manner, the control apparatus can place the input pages on a single page having the same size and a uniform layout on the page.

For example, as shown in Fig. 5, the control apparatus obtains a page size for a number of pages of input data to be printed on a single sheet of paper (S501). The print control apparatus determines the size and orientation of the output sheet (S502) and then divides the output sheet into N number of areas (S503). The print control apparatus repeats this for each page and then calculates the enlargement/reduction ratio (S504). The print control apparatus then enlarges or reduces the input page data and performs the layout for the N number of areas (S505). The print control apparatus repeats this for each page until each page fits uniformly on the same sheet. As stated in the Abstract, the print control apparatus disclosed in *Nishikawa* provides "a visually agreeable output result, all realized without modification in the conventional print driver." Therefore, *Nishikawa* describes a print control apparatus that automatically adjusts or changes the print data for each input page to be printed on a single sheet so that the input pages appear uniform on the sheet and are visually easy to see the layout of the different pages. *Nishikawa* does not disclose, teach or suggest a print data processing box that is displayed on a window display means which enables a user to manually change the print data such as the color or the like prior to printing one or more sheets from a printer.

In the Office Action, the Patent Office states that *Nishikawa* discloses a preview window having a preview box for displaying print data in a print data processing box operable by user for changing the print data at Col. 8, lines 34-39. However, Applicants fail to see where *Nishikawa* discloses such a print data processing box which is operable by user to change the print data. In Col. 8, *Nishikawa* discloses "[f]or the processing on the print data, there is ordinarily executed a setting on a window provided by the print driver 203 and the content of such setting is stored by the print driver 203 in the RAM 2 or in the external memory 11." Although *Nishikawa* discloses a setting on a window, it does not disclose a print data processing box operable by user for enabling the user to change the print data. Therefore, *Nishikawa* does not disclose, teach or suggest at least this element of the claimed invention.

Nishikawa also does not disclose, teach or suggest a print data processing means that is executed by the window display means for changing the print data when the user operates the print data processing box. As described above, *Nishikawa* does not disclose, teach or suggest a print data processing box that enables user to change the print data. Therefore, *Nishikawa* cannot disclose a print data processing means which changes print data based on changes entered by a user using the print data processing box.

For all of these reasons, *Nishikawa* does not disclose, teach or suggest all the elements of independent claims 1, 5 and 7. Therefore, claims 1, 5 and 7, and Claims 2-4, 6 and 8, which depend from these claims, are each patentably distinguished from *Nishikawa* and are in condition for allowance.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-8 are patentable and non-obvious over the art of record because the cited reference *Nishikawa*, does not disclose, teach or suggest all the elements of Claims 1-8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1-8 be deemed allowable at this time and that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

No fees are due in this case. If any other fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the patent office is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (112857-047) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 10 , 2003